

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

September 15, 2006



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VMA-513 Marines infiltrate MCMAP



Gunnery Sgt. Travis White navigates the infiltration course as part of a combat conditioning exercise for the Marine Corps Marital Arts Program Aug. 10 at Al Asad, Iraq. White, quality assurance chief, Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Aircraft 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), is one of many Marines to participate in the MCMAP training offered by the Marines with VMA-513 while deployed. SEE RELATED STORY, page 8.
Photo of courtesy of VMA-513

Mexico ceremony commemorates 9/11

Story by
Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

TIJUANA, MEXICO -- Marines from the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar color guard traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, Sept. 11 to support the American Consulate's commemoration ceremony held in remembrance of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Americans across the country remembered 9/11 in many different ways and Antonio O. Garza, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, wanted to commemorate the victims in Mexico as well.

"Mexican nationals were among the thousands of victims killed on Sept. 11, 2001," said Garza in a press release. "I would like to extend the gratitude of the people of my country to President Vicente Fox for the extraordinary efforts he has made to keep the people of our hemisphere safe from those who wish to do us harm."

Garza held a ceremony at the Embassy in Mexico City Sept. 11 and encouraged all the U.S. consulates throughout Mexico to do the same.

The Consulate in Tijuana wanted to do

some sort of commemoration, explained May Baptista, Vice Counselor, U.S. Consulate Generals Office, Tijuana. She invited the color guard from Miramar to participate in the remembrance.

"The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City did an event and we also wanted to give support," Baptista said. "We are very honored that they could do this."

The ceremony hit especially close to home for one of the Miramar color guard members.

Lance Cpl. Angel Santos, disburser, MCAS Miramar, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is a Bronx, New York, native, and was less than 14 city blocks from the World Trade Center five years ago.

"It was my last year of high school and I was 14 blocks from ground-zero," explained Santos. "I was in math class and remember it was a nice day outside during the first week of school."

"We heard a loud noise outside," Santos said. "Everyone thought it was a motor vehicle accident or something. Soon there was a lot of commotion outside. We looked out the window and saw what looked like a hole in the tower."

A few moments later, around 9:05, another explosion happened, everyone thought it was a bomb and that we were under attack, added Santos.

According to Santos, it seemed as though he and his classmates went into shock as the teacher turned on the news and they began to realize the magnitude of what they saw.

"I knew there was a good chance it was a terrorist attack," Santos said. "I thought World War III was about to break out, everyone was so scared. I saw the North tower fall. It was a giant cloud of smoke."

Many people across America lost their loved ones on this horrific day in September.

Santos was one of them.

"My mentor, John, worked for Morgan Stanley and had an office in the tower," explained Santos. "I worked with him through a school-to-work program."

Garza stressed the importance of honoring the victims of 9/11, no matter where people may reside.

"Let us honor the memory of all who died by pledging to do whatever is necessary to prevent a recurrence of this terrorist outrage in any country," said Garza.



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Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



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Commanding Officer
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CO's safety statement

Editor's note: This policy statement is from Col. Christopher O'Connor, commanding officer, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

The primary mission of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is to maintain and operate the facilities and provide services and material to support the operations of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and other tenant organizations. We can only accomplish this by preserving our most precious assets, our personnel and equipment. I charge each and every Marine, sailor, and civilian worker with the responsibility for safety in carrying out their duties and in monitoring those around them. Do not allow safety to be compromised under any circumstances, especially in the name of expediency.

The primary responsibility of the MCAS Miramar Safety Department is to promote safety throughout the command and advise me on safety matters. I task all Marines, sailors, and civilian personnel to use the Safety Department to address safety issues. I expect no one to waiver when it comes to adhering to acceptable standards. There is a right way and a wrong way to do

things. We need to make sure our Marines, sailors, and civilian personnel do it the right way. I instruct every leader to ensure their personnel are properly trained and thoroughly understand their duties and responsibilities.

I specifically charge all MCAS Miramar personnel with:

- . Ensuring safe work practices are adhered to in the work place.
- . Identifying and reporting hazards.
- . Being assertive in challenging the actions of others if unsafe practices become apparent.
- . Using mature, professional judgment when specific guidelines do not exist.
- . Using good, common sense when operating motor vehicles and participating in off-duty recreational activities.
- . Using Operational Risk Management in their activities, whether at work or on leave or liberty.

It is incumbent upon us all to exercise force preservation. We must take care of one another and preserve our most important warfighting assets; our personnel and equipment.

Taking guesswork out of second opinions

Story by Mark Jecker

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

It's an iffy question – under what circumstances should patients seek second opinions? At last, there are some definite guidelines to that sometimes difficult question.

In a new brochure, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) encourages patients facing non-emergency surgery to do their homework about the procedure, facility and surgical team, and to get a second opinion.

The brochure, *Having Surgery? What You Need to Know*, emphasizes the importance of patients and their families asking questions about recommended non-emergency surgery so they can understand what will be done and why. Recommended questions include:

- Why do I need an operation?
- Would you explain the operation you are recommending?
- Are there any alternatives to surgery?
- What are the benefits/risks of having this surgery?
- What are the hazards of not having this surgery?
- How long will it take me to recover?
- Where can I get a second opinion?



Using other doctor's opinions on your situation can be useful. When it comes to health no one can be too sure and more doctor's opinions used together can help.

TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, are entitled to request a second opinion from another specialist. An active duty member must make a second opinion request through their command. Unlike Standard beneficiaries, Prime beneficiaries must first obtain a referral from their primary care manager (PCM) and an authorization from TriWest.

Obtaining a specialist's services without the proper referral and authorization makes a Prime beneficiary responsible for higher,

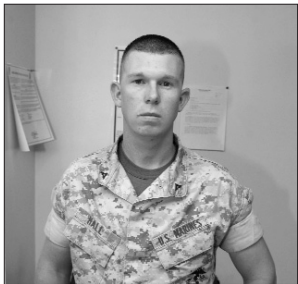
out-of-pocket costs under the point of service option.

The *Having Surgery? What You Need to Know* brochure is available on the AHRQ Web site: <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/surgery/surgery.htm>, or by calling 1-800-621-4111.

Information about TRICARE benefits, referrals and authorizations is available at <http://www.triwest.com> or <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>, or by calling 1-888-TRIWEST.

Miramarks

Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001?



Lance Cpl. Matthew Hall
Military Policeman
H&HS

"I was at school. I saw it on the news and didn't believe it was real."



Sgt. Meshonna Hardwick
Travel Auditor
H&HS

"I just got back from a deployment when I saw the news. I was so shocked I could barely breathe."

Briefs

Coronado Speed Festival

The Coronado Classic Speed Festival features over 225 of the world's top vintage racing machines competing for top honors on a 1.6 mile race course. The course was built on the runways and taxiways of NAS North Island and the festival will be held Oct. 7 and 8. Free tickets are available at the Marine Corps Community Services Miramar Ticket Office. Tickets are available to all eligible patrons, active duty, retirees, reservists and DoD civilians. Tickets are limited to four per ID card.

For more information, contact www.mwetoday.com/Sandiego/event

Financial Freedom

Learn how to free yourself from worry and stress about money and begin to build wealth. Set financial goals. Develop a spending plan. Cut your debt. Track your spending. Invest your future. Creating Financial Freedom classes from 1 to 3 p.m. Next class will be Sept. 20. The instructor will be Craig Hughes, financial management counselor. Please call and reserve a seat and plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to start of class.

For more information, contact 577-9802.

Pro-Am Golf Tourney

The Century Club of San Diego is hosting six Marines in the San Diego Area to play in the Buick Invitational Pro-Am on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007 and the Torrey Pines North Golf Course. In order to qualify to play in the Pro-Am, players must make the cut at the qualifying tournament at Miramar on December 1, 2006. The top six net scores will qualify to play in the Pro-Am. Interested players must have a valid handicap of 21 or less and register no later than Nov. 22.

For more information, contact the Miramar Pro Shop at 577-4155.

Out of the Darkness

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will be having an "Out of the Darkness" suicide prevention walk Oct. 29 in Balboa Park, San Diego. By walking in AFSP's community walks, you will be walking with thousands of people nationwide to raise money for the program's vital research and education to prevent suicide and save lives.

For more information contact, <http://www.outofthedarkness.org>.

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO – More than 200 people recognized and remembered the tragedies that happened in New York five years ago with a daylong walk at Balboa Park Sept. 11.

The purpose of the America Supports You Freedom Walk was to establish a national tradition to reflect on the lives lost Sept. 11, 2001, and to renew the commitment to freedom and the values of our country and honor the veterans, past and present, according to Aurora Sanks, event coordinator, and former Marine.

"This is our country's five-year anniversary of the events that happened at the Pentagon, the Twin Towers and Shanksville, Pa.," Sanks said. "We always try and get as many services out here as possible to support us and we always have a great turnout."

Service members from different units from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar walked at the event, including Marines from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and station commander, Col. Christopher E. O'Connor.

"The Balboa Park Walk provided an opportunity to take time out to remember those men and women who lost their lives on 9/11," said O'Connor. "They were targeted because they represented America and the freedoms we hold so special. It also was a chance to remember the Marines and Sailors who have given their lives since that fateful day and honor those who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and throughout the world in the defense of freedom. It was a very nice event."

Before the walk began, a ceremony was held honoring veterans, freedom, and heroes who fell on the tragic day.

The nearly two-mile course began near the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, proceeded through Balboa Park and concluded back at the museum.

As the walkers made their way over to the starting line, they shook hands with members



A supporter waiting for the walk to begin stands with his flag that he brought from home at Balboa Park, San Diego, Sept. 11. Many other participants also showed their support by wearing red, white and blue.



Participants in the San Diego America Supports You Freedom Walk, hold a "Freedom Walk" sign in the front of the walking line to lead out the rest of the participants at Balboa Park, San Diego, Sept. 11. The walk was to honor and remember the fallen heroes on the tragic day five years ago.

of the many services that took time out of their day to attend and support the freedom walk.

"By having as many services here as possible, it gives us all a chance to honor our fallen heroes together," Sanks said. "It reminds us that we are all brothers, fighting for the same cause."

The walk started at 9 a.m. and people walked freely until 11 p.m.

The event's sponsor, America Supports You, is a nationwide program that helps showcase Americans and provide support for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their

families. Since beginning in November of 2004 by the Department of Defense, the America Supports You program has welcomed over 225 grassroots organizations and more than 25 corporate team members.

Many supporters support our troops through letter writing, care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, and assisting military families.

If you would like to become a member of this program or just want to volunteer to support the troops, please visit <http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil>.

Pollution Prevention Week at Miramar

Environmental Office helps reduce waste at Miramar’s source

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

This year’s Pollution Prevention Week, themed “The Future is Now,” kicks off Sept. 18 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Since 1995, citizens across America have observed National Pollution Prevention Week, heightening their pollution prevention awareness. This year, Miramar officials have big plans for those who live and work aboard the air station.

In a prelude to the National Pollution Prevention Week, an informative class was held aboard the Station to discuss solutions to one of the biggest pollution concerns- the recycling of antifreeze and other hazardous waste materials.

In keeping with the theme of “The Future is Now,” Keith Spencer, environmental protection specialist, Environmental Management Department, MCAS Miramar, touched on potential plans of hazardous waste management.

“In the near future, we would like to mainstream the process of recycling coolant by solely using the Air Station’s

Hazardous Minimization Center,” Spencer said. “This would ultimately save money for the units, and further reduce the wastes waste and contamination.”

The plans were derived from the input of those familiar with the waste generating practice and activities to include motor transportation mechanics, the Auto Skills Center representatives, and avionics mechanics.

Although station-wide plans for mainstreaming the recycling of hazardous waste will ultimately save money for the units and reduce contamination, it is in the hands of the individual Marine to make the big impact.

Marines like Cpl. Jennifer Goff, motor transportation mechanic and hazardous waste coordinator, Marine Aviation Support Squadron 6, Detachment A, Marine Aircraft Group 46, MCAS Miramar, not only ensures that her Marines are practicing safe environmental practices on the job, but also at home.

“At work we’re always trying to dispose and recycle our waste properly, whether it's antifreeze, saturated rags, or simply plastics or cans,” said Goff, who works on operating and fixing humvees and 7-ton trucks. “At home, I always try to avoid throwing my cans and other recyclables in the garbage, and when I’m walking down the street I always make

an effort to pick up trash, no matter whose it is.”

Goff, who is also a mother and San Diego native, realizes the importance of such practices.

“I have a son, and I want his future to be brighter,” she said. If you don’t have kids, do it for the children who will grow up in this environment that we’re helping to create, we can make a difference.”

According to a press release from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, evaluating existing waste practices, conducting in-house training, and simply telling others about safe practices are a successful ways to promote pollution prevention.

Through proper practice, Spencer knows the effects will be rewarding for not only the Marines on station, but the environment as well.

“We are not creating ‘tree huggers’ or ‘environmentalists’, and the Marines don't see it that way either,” he said. “We all realize that through pollution prevention, we’re trying to improve efficiencies, save some money, and reduce compliance liabilities. These goals are good for us all as a Marine Corps and a country, and quite possibly may have global implications.”

For more information on pollution prevention, contact the Environmental Office at 577-1108 or visit <http://www.p2.org>.

Pollution Prevention Tips

according to www.dtsc.ca.gov

- 1) Use “green” products at home (use water, vinegar, and baking soda as an alternative to chemicals)
- 2) Replace incandescent lights with energy-efficient fluorescent lights (Lights last up to ten times longer, and use one-fourth less energy)
- 3) Use the microwave instead of heating up the oven for smaller meals
- 4) Turn the water heater down (can save energy and up to \$50 each year)
- 5) Turn off lights and computers that aren’t in use, at home and in the office
- 6) Carpool to work or consider commuting by bicycle (minimizes fuel costs)

Toby Keith stars in ‘Broken Bridges’

Story by Cpl. Martin Harris

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Country music star Toby Keith has enjoyed success in the country music industry by racking up numerous awards and accolades for his controversial lyrics, good ol’ boy attitude and uncanny talent of relating to the masses.

Keith is now stepping onto the big screen with fellow thespians, Willie Nelson, Kellie Preston and Burt Reynolds.

“Broken Bridges” opened Sept. 9 and was recently offered to service members at an advanced screening at the Bob Hope Theater aboard MCAS Miramar. According to Keith, his character in the film was the perfect break-role.

“This one is a Southern drama,” Keith said in an interview for *tennessean.com*. “It had a military backdrop, so it made sense for me there because I support the troops wholeheartedly.”

An interesting, yet basic, plot puts Keith and his adolescent flame, Preston, back in their small hometown in Tennessee after a military training accident claims the lives of their respective siblings.

The two heartbroken ex-lovers, drawn together through the struggle of loss and old emotions, work together to conquer personal demons and old relationships to reach a very predictable reconciliation.

Their teenage daughter mixes up the equation with her hormonal outbursts and surprising musical prowess adding to the predictability of the film.

No amount of sentiment was wasted in the truly heartwarming story where long pseudo-dramatic scenes tested the limits of patience.

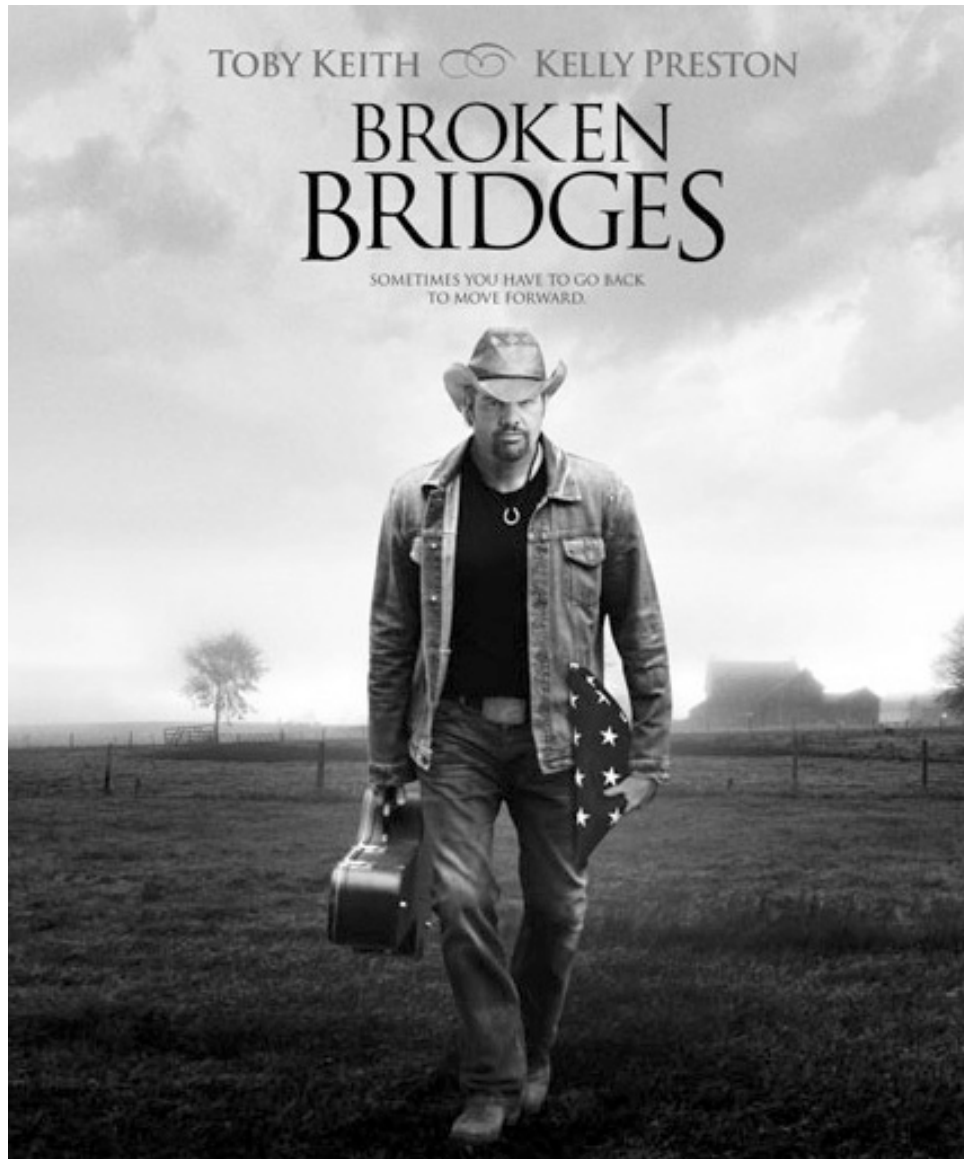
Cameo appearances of Reynolds and Nelson are laughable at times and lead to the movie’s made-for-TV feeling.

The movie, though slightly cheesy, boasts a wonderful array of folk, country and pop music. Several sporadic performances throughout the movie offer a wide variety of musical styles and are a welcome break from the sometimes dry dialogue.

Nelson and Keith sport their talents well, inserting music into nearly every scene, which contributes to a down-home, knee-slapping soundtrack.

As good as the intentions for the movie may have been, the film seems to lack plot depth and excitement. Though it has plenty of emotion for couples to enjoy together, it may not live up to movie-goers expectations.

Die hard Toby Keith fans, as well as sentimental movie buffs, should expect to find admirable qualities in the film and maybe shed a few tears, but those who don’t enjoy the country music genre will be lost on the movies’ direction and purpose.



San Diego Zoo offers jungle retreat

Story by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Have you ever found yourself bored on the weekend with nothing to do? Or maybe you just don't want to spend any of your money? Well, have no fear, the zoo is here!

The San Diego Zoo, located near Balboa Park, has more than 4,000 creatures and 800 species that call the zoo home. The zoo also has a botanical garden that houses more than 700,000 plants from all around the world. Visitors can entertain themselves with the wild exhibits for an entire day and what's best – it's free for active-duty service members.

In 1916, San Diego hosted an exposition to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. Among the exhibits were groups of animals scattered throughout San Diego's Balboa Park. Dr. Harry Wegeforth, a local physician, decided that the animals should make a permanent residence in San Diego and created the San Diego Zoo. Since then the zoo has grown to include the Wild Animal Park and the Conservation and Research for Endangered Species, or CRES. The CRES facility is closed to the public, but the results of the team's work can be seen everywhere in the zoo and park. Today, over three million guests visit the San Diego Zoo annually.

The zoo in San Diego is only one of four in the U.S. with giant pandas. Many other rare species also live here, including Buerger's tree kangaroos of New Guinea.

People can walk around the exhibits and observe the natural beauty of the exotic wild



Two giant panda bears play with each other at the San Diego Zoo August 6. The zoo, is one of only four in the U.S. that have these bears on display year round. Service members can enter the zoo for free with the presentation of their military ID card. Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

life.

The San Diego Zoo is the forerunner in creating living environments. Many animals live without bars and instead have moats along the enclosures, allowing their animals to roam in a sophisticated environment

see ZOO, page 7



Two mandrill monkeys from South Africa play along their habitat at the San Diego Zoo August 6 in the sunny San Diego day. These endangered monkeys live in a state of the art home to ensure they have the same living conditions of that in the wild. Service members can enjoy the zoo for free with the presentation of their military ID card. Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

ZOO,
continued from page 6

resembling their natural home.

One of the newest attractions, Monkey Trails and Forest Tales, is the largest and most elaborate habitat in the zoo’s history. The exhibit recreates a wooded forest full of endangered species such as the Mandrill Monkey and Clouded Leopard.

Visitors can also walk along the elevated trail along the treetops, allowing people to observe the birds and plant life that thrive in the forest canopy.

Zoo goers don’t have to walk the entire park in order to see each exhibit. The zoo also offers a 40-minute guided bus tour which covers 75 percent of the facility for \$10. It won’t allow visitors to get off for photos, but it’s a great way to orient your self to the zoo and see the major attractions.

The zoo is located off of the Balboa park exit off of U.S. Highway 163 South and is open seven days a week.



Noah McCammon, 7, compares his hands to a gorilla's at an exhibit at the zoo Aug. 1. *Photo courtesy Melissa Garrand*



The elephant exhibit is one of the most popular at the zoo. The zoo has both Asian and African elephants for visitors to watch and photograph. The elephants are among the more than 4,000 animals that make the zoo their home. Instead of walking to the exhibit, zoo goers can also take a 40- minute guided bus tour that covers more than 75 percent of the park. *Photo courtesy Melissa Garrand*

Marines master martial arts, train squadron

Story by Lance Cpl. Brian J. Holloran
3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

While in a combat environment, many service members let training take a backseat to the current mission and forget about it entirely. For two Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 513, training has become an important part of their daily regime.

Both, Staff Sgt. Alfredo Topete, aviation ordnance noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Sgt. Casey J. Yartym, flight equipment technician, VMA-513, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), have given their squadron the chance to train in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program while deployed.

“We wanted to give the Marines a chance to better themselves while out here,” said Yartym, a native of Avoca, N.Y.

“We conducted the training to get Marines out of their daily routines,” said Topete, a native of Pacoima, Calif. “Some Marines get so wrapped up around the flight schedule that they start to forget about training.”

The MCMAP course was designed to allow the Marines with the squadron a chance to partake in training that they would be unable to otherwise.

“It’s hard to get the maintenance Marines out to a MCMAP course while we are in the (United States),” said Yartym. “In the States the courses are three or four hours a day for two weeks, it’s hard to pull a maintenance Marine away from their shop for that long without the shop suffering, but out here we just grab the Marines for an hour or so. As soon as we are done, they go back to their shop.”

The Marines from VMA-513 wasted little time getting the training started, according to Yartym.

“We started planning as soon as we hit the dirt,” said Topete. “Sergeant Yartym had the first class going in March, only a few weeks after we landed in country.”

“We had to incorporate the environment into the training,” said Yartym. “We created a MCMAP pit where we practice throws and ground fighting and an infiltration course -- a 60-foot-long block of land with barbed wire across it, which the Marines crawl under. We also have the fire department come down and spray the infiltration course so that it is muddy for the Marines.”

The Marines of VMA-513 have clearly taken advantage of the opportunity to train and become more efficient.

“We certified about 200 Marines from VMA-513, some of them for two different belts,” said Topete. “We also conducted sustainment training at Corporal’s Course, and we have trained Marines from other commands.”

According to Topete, the martial arts training is a great experience for the Marines, especially while deployed.

“This type of training is very effective, especially in a combat zone,” said Topete. “It helps Marines get into a combat mindset and prepares them for their seven months



Staff Sgt. Jeffery W. Anderson struggles as he performs buddy squats during a grey belt Marine Corps Martial Program course March 23 at Al Asad, Iraq. Anderson, maintenance administration chief, Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), is one of nearly 200 Marines to participate in the MCMAP courses held by Marines with VMA-513. Photo by courtesy of VMA-513



Sgt. Casey J. Yartym (left) and Staff Sgt. Alfredo Topete pose for a photo in front of the sign for the Nightmare Dojo Sept. 1 at Al Asad, Iraq. Both Topete, aviation ordnance staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Yartym, flight equipment technician, VMA-513, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), started certifying Marines with their squadron in Marine Corps Martial Arts Program while deployed to Al Asad. Yartym is a native of Avoca, N.Y., and Topete is a Pacoima, Calif., native. Photo by courtesy of VMA-513

Padres in the race for the playoffs

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

With the Major League baseball season coming to an end and the San Diego Padres in the top of their division, there is only a few more times someone can “catch” a home game at PETCO Park this season.

The Padres are having a great year and have maintained their position as one of the top three teams in their division this season. They currently hold the wildcard slot for the National League with a record of 74-68.

If the Padres pull out the win in the playoffs and take the National League spot in the World Series, it would be the first time since 1998. Last time, they went to the series and lost against the New York Yankees in a 4-0 series.

On Sept. 6, the Padres, coming off a four-game winning streak, finished their series against the Colorado Rockies with their fifth win.

Padres closing pitcher, Trevor Hoffman is chasing the all time close out record which is currently owned by Lee Smith with 478 career close-out

saves. Hoffman currently has 473 saves.

Fans of the padres voted on-line to support a player from the team, Trevor Hoffman, as the Marvin Miller Man of the year.

This award is given to recognize a baseball player whose on-field performance and contributions to his community inspire others to a higher level of achievement.

Hoffman was nominated by his teammates for his prestigious honor for his volunteer efforts in the San Diego area.

The final two home game series for the Padres are from Sept. 19- 24. They will face off with the Diamondbacks and Pirates consecutively. The Padres will put a close to their regular season with two away series against the Cardinals and Diamondbacks.

Discount tickets for home games can be purchased at the Entertainment Ticket Office on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Call 577-4126 for more information. Tickets are also available at the Padres Web site, <http://www.padres.mlb.com>, or by calling their ticket master at 1-877-374-2784.



The almost packed PETCO Park had the crowd cheering Sept. 6 when the San Diego Padres swept the Colorado Rockies in a five-game series in the National League.



A scoreboard lights up Sept. 6 as Trevor Hoffman, close-out pitcher for the San Diego Padres throws his third strike to end bottom of the ninth against the Colorado Rockies. The Padres won the game in the bottom of the 11th inning with a two-run homer by Paul McAulty.

AROUND THE CORPS



MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO -- Company C recruits stretch out their abdominal muscles before a martial arts session. Since August 2005, almost every drill instructor who has graduated from Drill Instructor School here has attended the Instructors' Course at the depot's Marine Corps Martial Arts Program facility. The course is designed to give drill instructors more knowledge and experience with the materials taught in MCMAP before they teach it to the recruits. Photo by Lance Cpl. James Green



AL ASAD, IRAQ - Cpl. Christopher R. Bratton, a 21-year-old from Cheyenne, Wyo., and tank mechanic with the Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, connects a chain to the underside of an M1A1 Main Battle Tank to assist with removing parts from the 68-ton tank. Company C is currently attached to Regimental Combat Team 7, the U.S. military unit responsible for providing security and mentoring Iraqi Security Forces in western Anbar – an area more than 30,000 square-miles in size, or about the size of South Carolina, according to the Marines here. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Goodwin



OKINAWA, JAPAN - Marines and sailors from Company A., Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, prepare for an altercation with an angry mob during a non-lethal weapons exercise held here Sept 7. The training was conducted as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's MEU Exercise in preparation for possible contingencies throughout the Asia-Pacific theater. The BLT is the ground combat element of the 31st MEU. Photo by Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin

Announcements



Is this your Camaro?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice. For more information, call 577-4139.

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information call 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:
Mitsubishi Eclipse	CA#5DAX061
Honda CX	CA#5ERW727
Suzuki GSXR	CA#17E7224
Ford E350	CA#4LNX778
Motorcycle Trailor	VA#CT497383

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located on Elrod Ave. and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:

6:30 p.m. The Ant Bully (PG)
9:00 p.m. Miami Vice (R)

Saturday:

8:00 a.m. Swap Meet (8am-2pm)
6:30 p.m. Free Advance Screening
9:00 p.m. John Tucker Must Die (PG-13)

Sunday:

1:00 p.m. *Monster House (PG)
6:30 p.m. Hitch (PG-13) FREE
9:00 p.m. David Coleman (PG-13)

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Talladega Nights (PG-13)

Thursday:

2:00 p.m. Barnyard (PG)
6:30 p.m. Miami Vice (R)

* Indicates the last showing for that film.

Health Challenge

Your kids are back in school and you finally have the opportunity to get to the gym. Join the Semper Fit Center on Sept. 20 for the Back to School Health & Fitness Challenge. This is a great chance to jump-start your fall fitness program and get information on how to manipulate your exercises to meet your goals.

For more information, contact 577-4669.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:

7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:

11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

Jewish:

7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

America's Hitch Visit

The Bob Hope Theater will showing the movie, "Hitch" starring Will Smith at the theater at 6 p.m. on September 17. After the movie, David Coleman will be a guest speaker for all those who attend. Coleman is known as "The Date Doctor." and is known as a real-life hitch.He helps men to land dates. He has been named the National Speaker of the Year on 10 separate occasions.

For more information, contact 577-1936.

Black Thursday

The Miramar Sports Complex will be having their annual Black Thursday Sept. 21, from 12 to 1 p.m. The event will be the 100-yard dash. Participants will meet at the complex's outside track for the competition. The winner will receive their personalized t-shirt, bragging rights, and commanding general cup points.

For more information , contact 577-4126.

Free Comedy Show

There will be a free comedy show at the Bob Hope Theater, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. starring Jimmy Della Valle and Jeffrey Steele. Beer and refreshments will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact 577-6365.